

N E W S R E L E A S E

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SECRETARY BRADSHAW ANNOUNCES \$17.9 MILLION GRANT TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES STATEWIDE

SACRAMENTO – Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, today announced the award of \$17.9 million to fund special programs statewide that will help new workers find jobs and retrain existing workers in high-need and high wage sectors of the economy.

The recipients of the awards have also committed to cash matches totaling \$11 million to enhance the projects and improve the outcomes.

“Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to keeping California’s businesses competitive in the global economy,” Bradshaw said. “These grants will take us a giant step closer to that goal. They will help our workers develop the skills they need to obtain high-wage jobs in this rapidly changing world.”

“These grants also focus on another of the Schwarzenegger Administration’s high priorities: our continuing efforts to address California’s nursing shortage. We included millions of dollars for nursing education in this year’s state budget. These grants will supplement the Governor’s nursing initiative by providing more funds to educate nurses.”

“The programs funded through this grant will focus on four specific areas,” said Bradshaw. “One group of grants will prepare job seekers for high-wage, high skill jobs that help California’s businesses succeed and expand. The second group will provide customized services and training to help workers with special needs overcome employment barriers. The third area of grants is directed to the nursing shortage in healthcare. The fourth group of grants will assist veterans who have significant barriers to obtaining meaningful employment.”

The high-wage, high-skill projects will provide workers with the skills needed by those growth industries expected to play a major role in the expansion of California’s economy, especially in areas where shortages of skilled workers are hampering business growth.

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The projects involving advancing workers with barriers to employment will provide customized services and training for special needs populations such as people with disabilities, youth, welfare recipients, and people lacking workplace literacy skills. The projects will help new workers find entry-level jobs, and they will upgrade skill levels for demand occupations as locally determined.

Programs designed to address the nursing shortage will focus exclusively on training for Licensed Vocational Nurses and Registered Nurses and upgrading Associate Degree Nurses to Bachelor of Science Nurses.

The Veterans' projects will provide employment and training services, supportive services, placement, and follow-up through a case management approach. These programs are expected to run from about January 2006 through December 2007.

Funding for the programs is drawn from the Governor's 15 and 25 percent portion of the federal Workforce Investment Act monies under the administrative authority of the state Employment Development Department.

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NOTE: See pages 3 and 4 for list of grantees.

Growth Industries – High Wage, High Skill

Awardees	Targeted Industry	County	Award Amount
Community Services & Employment Training	Construction	Tulare	\$450,666
Foothill Employment and Training Consortium	Automotive Technology	Los Angeles	\$600,000
San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council Training	Construction	San Diego	\$600,000
South Bay Center for Counseling	Energy and Refining Sector	Los Angeles	\$600,000
San Jose/Silicon Valley	Bio-informatics	Santa Clara	\$600,000
Total			\$2,850,666

Industries with a Statewide Need – Nursing

Awardees	County	Award Amount
Contra Costa County	Contra Costa	\$691,547
Downey Unified School District	Los Angeles	\$420,024
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc	Alameda	\$800,000
Kern Community College District	Kern	\$797,848
Long Beach City	Los Angeles	\$800,000
Los Angeles County College of Nursing & Allied Health	Los Angeles	\$799,969
Los Angeles Works	Los Angeles	\$800,000
Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium	Multi-County Northern California	\$800,000
State Center Community College District	Fresno	\$714,062
Verdugo Consortium	Los Angeles	\$515,000
Visalia Unified School District/Visalia Adult School	Tulare	\$494,589
Total		\$7,633,039

Advancing Workers with Barriers to Employment

Awardees	Target Population	County	Award Amount
Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc.	Disabled Out of School Youth	San Diego	\$399,996
Humboldt County	Limited English Job Seekers and Incumbent Workers	Humboldt	\$500,000
Opportunities Industrialization Center West, Incorporated	Low Skill Limited English	San Mateo	\$500,000
Para Los Ninos	Out of School Youth	Los Angeles	\$500,000
Rubicon Programs Incorporated	Multiple Barriers	Contra Costa	\$500,000
Spanish Speaking Unity Council	Low Income Limited English	Alameda	\$500,000
Total			\$2,899,996

Veterans Employment-Related Assistance

Awardees	County	Award Amount
Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP)	Los Angeles	\$500,000
Inter-City Services, Incorporated	Alameda	\$500,000
Lutheran Social Services	Los Angeles	\$409,255
Motherlode Consortium	Tuolumne	\$185,000
North County Interfaith Council	San Diego	\$500,000
Northern Santa Clara Valley Job Training Consortium	Santa Clara	\$500,000
Sacramento Veterans Resource Center	Sacramento	\$500,000
Solano County	Solano	\$500,000
Swords to Plowshares	San Francisco	\$500,000
Vietnam Veterans of San Diego	San Diego	\$500,000
Total		\$4,594,255